

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-03 ACDA-10 EB-03 DRC-01 /077 W

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R 110708Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6390

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUES INTERPELLATION

REF: SEOUL 6704; SEOUL 6714

1. DURING OCTOBER 10 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATION SESSION, PRIME MINISTER KIM JONG PIL AGAIN ADDRESSED ISSUE OF "HUMAN RIGHTS" IN KOREA. IN WARNING THAT NATION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET EVENTUALITY OF U.S. MILITARY AID CUT PREDICTED IN TWO TO THREE YEARS, PRIMIN EMPHASIZED THAT POSSIBLE CUT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. JUSTICE MINISTER DENIED AGAIN THAT U.S. HAD RAISED SUBJECT OF KOREAN INTERNAL SITUATION.

2. PRIMIN DID NOTE "FRANKLY, THAT BASIC RIGHTS OF PEOPLE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT ENCROACHED UPON IN PAST BY CERTAIN AUTHORITIES CONCERNED" BUT THIS WAS NO LONGER TRUE SINCE "PERSONNEL RESHUFFLE." NONETHELESS, PRIMIN STATED ROKG WOULD NOT PERMIT "INDEFINITE DEBATE" OVER YUSHIN (REVITALIZING REFORMS). HE SAID SITUATION IN KOREA IS ONE OF STATE OF WAR

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AND PRESS NOTED PRIMIN STRESSED THAT "ANY SOCIAL

DISTURBANCE DETRIMENTAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY SHOULD BE AVOIDED." HE ALSO NOTED BASIC RIGHTS OF KOREAN PEOPLE ARE "RESPECTED MORE HERE THAN IN OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." ACCORDING TO PRESS HE REPEATEDLY CRITICIZED "PSEUDO-JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS ABROAD" WHO MISUNDERSTAND REAL SITUATION IN KOREA. PRIMIN AGAIN STATED THAT POSSIBLE REVISION OF CONSTITUTION WAS "COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS RUMOR" AND HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH PLAN.

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LHO SHIN-YONG EXPRESSED "GRAVE CONCERN" OVER ANY PROPOSALS FOR GUARANTEE OF KOREAN PENINSULA SECURITY BY U.S., JAPAN, USSR, AND CHINA, SAYING "IT WAS NOT STABLE OVERTURE." LHO SAID SUCH A PLAN IS PRECARIOUS ONE AS FOUR POWERS HAVE CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THEIR RELATIONS WILL NOT CHANGE ABRUPTLY. LHO ALSO SAID PROBLEMS WILL INEVITABLY FLARE UP WITH JAPAN, CHINA, AND NORTH KOREA WHEN 12-MILE SEA LIMIT AND 20-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE ARE ADOPTED AND GO INTO FORCE POSSIBLY NEXT YEAR.

4. IN QUESTIONING PERIOD, NDP'S HAN PYONG-CHAE NOTED IF YUSHIN IS TO SUCCEED, POLITICAL CLIMATE IN KOREA SHOULD BE IMPROVED WITH MORE DEMOCRATIC PAJGIAMENT AND FREEDOM OF PRESEU. DRP'S PAK CHAN SUGGESTED IN WAKE OF RECENT GEM SCANDAL THAT ROKG SHOULD REGISTER PROPERTY OF ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, NATIONAL SECURITY, SPEECHES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, THE PRESS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL06762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-1035
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741052/aaaabscs.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 6704; SEOUL 6714
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUES INTERPELLATION
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, KN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005